

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 /086 W

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R 120900Z NOV 75X

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 449

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY VIEN R

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PINT, BU, XG

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN AGRARIAN UNION HOSTS CSCE CONFERENCE

1. A SOMEWHAT NEW FEATURE IN THE OLD BULGARIAN COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN TO EXPLOIT THE MYTH THAT THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNION IS AN INDEPENDENT PARTY RATHER THAN A BCP FACADE, WAS A CONFERENCE IN VARNA OCTOBER 30-31 HOSTED BY THE UNION, ON THE SUBJECT OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE CONFERENCE WAS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF THREE REPORTEDLY INITIATED BY THE FINNISH PARTY OF THE CENTER. A PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN HELSINKI LAST MAY, WHERE IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD A MORE BROADLY REPRESENTED SECOND CONFERENCE IN BULGARIA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL SESSION TO BE HELD IN HELSINKI AGAIN IN FEBRUARY 1976.

2. THE VARNA CONFERENCE SEEMS TO HAVE WIDENED THE FOCUS BEYOND AGRARIANS AND SUPPOSED FELLOW-AGRARIANS BY BEING BILLED AS INCLUDING "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN AGRARIAN AND KINDRED PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, PARTIES OF THE CENTER, LEFT RADICALS, LIBERALS AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES". THE RESOLUTION ENDORSING CSCE WAS PURE BOILERPLATE. THE ATTENDANCE, HOWEVER, WAS INTERESTING. REPORTEDLY THERE WERE DELEGATES FROM 22 COUNTRIES.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THOSE FROM THE BLOC WERE (LIKE THE UNION ITSELF) COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, E.G. THE CENTRAL UNION OF COOPERATIVES OF HUNGARY, THE UNION COUNCIL OF THE COLLECTIVE FARMS OF THE USSR, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC AGRARIAN PARTY, ETC.

4. AMONG WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WE NOTE THE FOLLOWING, SOME OF WHOM MAY REGARD THE UNION AS JUST ANOTHER FELLOW AGRARIAN OR CENTER GROUPING. COMMENTS ARE THOSE THAT WE HAVE COLLECTED FROM NATO AND OTHER FRIENDLY AMBASSADORS IN SOFIA. COMMENTS ARE INCOMPLETE AND IN SOME CASES NOMENCLATURE SOMEWHAT INACCURATE BECAUSE A NUMBER OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE REPRESENTATIVES HERE WITH WHOM WE MIGHT CHECK.
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A. AUSTRIA: AGRARIAN UNION. THIS IS THE BAUERNBUND, A MAJOR CONSTITUENT ELEMENT OF THE (CONSERVATIVE) AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY.

B. AUSTRIA: WORKERS' AGRARIAN UNION OR ARBEITERBAUERNBUND, AN ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED AS CLOSE TO THE RULING AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY. THIS BODY HAS REPORTED-

LY HAD HIGH OFFICIALS VISITING THE BULGARIAN AGRARIANS
IN THE PAST, AND HAS ITSELF HOSTED VISITORS OF THE BAU.

C. BELGIUM: PROGRESSIVE RADICALS, A SMALL
SPLINTER GROUP.

D. BELGIUM: UNION DES EXPLOITANTS FAMILIAUX
(SYEF) DESCRIBED AS "NOT VERY IMPORTANT" BUT NOT
NORMALLY FELLOW-TRAVELING.

E. CYPRUS: UNION OF AGRARIANS.

F. DENMARK: RADICAL PARTY "VENSTRE".

G. KADENMARK: UNION OF SMALL PROPRIETORS.

H. FINLAND: CENTER PARTY, A MEMBER OF THE LAST
(AND POSSIBLY NEXT) GOVERNING COALITION, IS REPORTEDLY
A REAL PARTY OF THE FARMERS AND PEASANTS. ITS REP
IN VARNA WAS FORMER PRIME MINISTER VIROLAINEN DEUCRIBED
TO US AS "A GENUINE AGRARIAN".

I. FRANCE: LEFT RADICALS (RADICAUX DE GAUCHE),
DESCRIBED AS "THE MOST CENTRIST" OF THE GROUPS ALLIED
WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. ITS LEADER, ROBERT
FABRE, HAS SEPARATELY VISITED THE LEADER OF THE BAU,
PETUR TANCHEV.

J. FRG: FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, A MEMBER OF THE
GOVERNING COALITION. ITS REPRESENTATIVE, HERR HOELSCHER,
IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE VISITED BULGARIA SEPARATELY
AT THE INVITATION OF TANCHEV.

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K. GREECE: CENTER UNION "NEW FORCES", THE OPPOSITION PARTY, REPRESENTED BY RESPECTED AND MERITORIOUS DEPUTY BALTAZZIS WHO IS A GENUINE AGRARIAN.

L. IRELAND: NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNION.

M. ITALY: ITALIAN UNION OF PEASANTS, DESCRIBED AS MODERATE LEFTIST.

N. ITALY: FEDERATION OF SHARECROPPERS "FEDERAZIONE MEZZADRI".

O. NETHERLANDS: POLITICAL PARTY OF THE RADICALS, A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING COALITION, HAS ALSO SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST EXCHANGED VISITS WITH THE BULGARIAN AGRARIANS.

P. NORWAY: UNION OF PETTY FARMERS.

Q. PORTUGAL: AGRARIAN LEAGUE, APPARENTLY A
NEW CREATION WITH WHICH THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HERE
IS UNFAMILIAR.

R. UNITED KINGDOM: LONDON COOPERATIVE UNION,
DESCRIBED AS AN ARM OF THE CWS AND AT LEAST AT ONE TIME
CLOSE TO THE GOVERNING LABOUR PARTY. MR. LESLIE OF
THIS ORGANIZATION HAS ALSO HAD SEPARATE VISITS HOSTED
BY TANCHEV.

5. THE BAU, ALSO SOMETIMES BILLED AS THE BULGARIAN
AGRARIAN PARTY, IS IN FACT A LIVING CORPSE MANIPULATED
ENTIRELY BY THE BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. ITS LAST
INDEPENDENT LEADER WAS SHOT IN 1947. WHILE IT HAS
100 MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND IS NOMINALLY
A "COALITION PARTNER" OF THE BCP, TANCHEV HIMSELF TELLS
DIPLOMATIC VISITORS THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFER-
ENCE WHATSOEVER BETWEEN THE POLICY OF HIS UNION AND
THAT OF THE BCP. ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL ROLES, IN FACT,
IS TO FRONT FOR THE REGIME AS HE APPEARS TO HAVE DONE
WITH SOME SUCCESS AT THE RECENT VARNA "CONFERENCE".
HERZ

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